

January 10, 2003

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Western Wireless Corporation Opposition to Petitions for
Reconsideration in *Federal-State Joint Board on
Universal Service, Western Wireless Corporation
Petitions for Preemption of an Order of the South
Dakota Public Utilities Commission, Declaratory Ruling,
FCC 00-248*;
Petition by the Colorado Public Service Commission,
pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.207©, for Commission
Agreement In Redefining the Service Area For
CenturyTel of Eagle, Inc., a Rural Telephone Company.
– Notice of *Ex Parte* communication in CC Docket 96-
45.**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

David L. Sieradzki of the Hogan & Hartson law firm, Jim Blundell of Western Wireless Corporation and I met today with Anita Cheng, Eric Einhorn and Cara Voth of the Wireline Competition Bureau on the two above-captioned matters.

First, we reiterated the comments Western Wireless filed with your office on September 21, 2000, in the South Dakota matter. We described the pro-competitive benefits that have occurred since the Commission's release on August 10, 2000, of this decision. Second, we stated our support for the Colorado Public Service Commission's petition. We explained that the Colorado PSC's proposal would benefit Competitive Eligible Telecommunications Carriers, like Western Wireless. We also expressed our support for the Bureau's initial decision not to initiate a proceeding in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Rubin
Director of Federal Government Affairs
Western Wireless Corp.
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